

INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

(By E. O. BELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR JULY 15.

HEZEKIAH, THE FAITHFUL KING.

LESSON TEXT—II Chron. 30:1.
GOLDEN TEXT—He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.—Heb. 11:6.

The reformation under Hezekiah is one of the bright and attractive spots in the latter history of the kingdom of Israel. It was a most thorough reformation and God set his seal upon it in many wonderful ways. Teachers ought to give their classes a comprehensive view of all that Hezekiah did, as recorded in II Chron., chapters 29-32.

I. Hezekiah's Proclamation. (vv. 1-6). The proper introduction to this lesson would be to return to chapter twenty-nine and note the restoration of the worship of Jehovah. How it began in one man's heart, Hezekiah; how he called the people to be clean (29:15), then called upon a cleansing of the house of God and its restoration (vv. 18, 19). How he called them to renewed sacrifice and worship (vv. 20, 21). The restoration of the sin-offering and of the burnt-offering, and the result of these offerings in the Levitical music and in the worship of the great congregation (29, 28). The sequel of song always follows and accompanies a true revival of religion. Having consecrated themselves unto the Lord, Hezekiah sends out this proclamation. The consecration of the people, as referred in chapter 29, was very complete. (See vv. 31-36.) Hezekiah was a man of deep discernment as well as of true piety. He saw the meaning of the sacrifice of redemption and put the passover forward as the very heart-center of the worship of Jehovah. (See vv. 1, 2.) Whoever understands the passover, understands God's way of salvation. (See Exodus 12:13-23; I Cor. 5:7, 8; Rom. 3:25, 26; John 1:29.) Hezekiah did not confine his call to those of Israel alone, but extended it beyond its borders to those of Ephraim, thus manifesting the true missionary spirit. Hezekiah had ample Scriptural warrant keeping this passover out of its regular order (vv. 9-13). God is not a God of time or place. Wherever obedience is possible, whether it be a matter of time or not, God approves. Hezekiah, however, did not act upon his own initiative, but sought counsel. (See v. 2.) The man who is the most clearly led of God is the man who is most eager and anxious to know how God is leading other men and will listen most patiently to their counsel. The fact that the people had not "gathered themselves together at Jerusalem" for a long time, might have warranted a further delay. Not so with this enthusiastic young king. He was not bound by precedent, but was anxious to please God.

II. Hezekiah's Exhortation (vv. 7-13). Hezekiah began his exhortation by calling attention to the trespasses of their fathers (v. 7). At the same time he reminds them that if God gave them over to desolation because they themselves were stiff-necked (v. 8) and yielded not themselves unto the Lord to enter his sanctuary, which he had sanctified unto them, they would come under the fierceness of God's wrath, for they had turned from the Lord God of their fathers. Because of that trespass God had "given them up to desolation." Literally he had made them "an astonishment." This astonishment and desolation was well known, "as ye see" (v. 7). Anyone with eyes open can see today the desolation of individuals, of families, communities and nations who trespass against God. For a generation we have had the delirium of Christ and the inspiration of his Word called into question and that the individual man is the dictator of his own conscience and life, and it is because men have departed from their faithful allegiance to Jesus Christ and fail to obey his command, that we see the strife and desolation of today.

The first departure caused people to be "stiff-necked" and Jehovah is calling them to repentance, but they would not hear (see Ch. 36:13; Ex. 32:9; Rom. 10:21). In place of this "stiff-neckedness" of their hearts Hezekiah exhorts them to turn again to the Lord and not to be stiff-necked as were their fathers (v. 8), that if they will turn again unto the Lord (v. 9) they will find compassion so that they shall again enter his gracious and merciful feelings. Having yielded themselves they were to enter into communion with him and "enter into his sanctuary, which he had sanctified forever." They were also to serve him. Most blessed results were to follow for them and for their brethren and their children, but all of this bright prospect is conditioned upon repentance, surrender, communion and service, which is based upon the fact that Jehovah "is gracious and merciful" (Ex. 34:6, 7; Ps. 86:5; Jonah 4:2; Mark 7:18). Then, even as now, there were those who would not yield themselves to God's gracious invitation. As the priests passed through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, even unto Zebulun, they were "laughed to scorn and some mocked" (v. 10).

III. Hezekiah's Exhortation (vv. 14-19). Hezekiah began his exhortation by calling attention to the trespasses of their fathers (v. 7). At the same time he reminds them that if God gave them over to desolation because they themselves were stiff-necked (v. 8) and yielded not themselves unto the Lord to enter his sanctuary, which he had sanctified unto them, they would come under the fierceness of God's wrath, for they had turned from the Lord God of their fathers. Because of that trespass God had "given them up to desolation." Literally he had made them "an astonishment." This astonishment and desolation was well known, "as ye see" (v. 7). Anyone with eyes open can see today the desolation of individuals, of families, communities and nations who trespass against God. For a generation we have had the delirium of Christ and the inspiration of his Word called into question and that the individual man is the dictator of his own conscience and life, and it is because men have departed from their faithful allegiance to Jesus Christ and fail to obey his command, that we see the strife and desolation of today.

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HERE ARE WHAT OUR SAMMIES MUST CONQUER



Tommy knows them already and when Sammy reaches the trenches in France, he too will have to become acquainted with them. They're characteristic types of German soldiers captured by the British in their latest drive. They're the kind of men the Kaiser is shoving in front of him to maintain his empire by ruthless warfare. Our Sammies will have to conquer them to win the war.

WASHINGTON NEWS -- GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 12.—At a recent meeting of the West Virginia Pharmaceutical Association held at Deer Park, there was a set of resolutions presented and passed which by inference was a complaint that pharmacists were not given recognition by the army to the extent that they should and advocating commissions for them. These resolutions were sent to Congressman Harry C. Woodward, who, in turn, transmitted them to Maj. Gen. W. C. Gorgas, surgeon general of the army.

In answer to them, Congressman Woodward today received from Gen. Gorgas a lengthy explanatory communication, which he forwarded to the President of the West Virginia organization. The following paragraph furnishes the key to the Gorgas letter: "The pharmaceutical work of the army is done in the most acceptable manner by the non-commissioned officers of the service. In fact, a few of these officers are members of the National Pharmaceutical Association."

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Davis, of Harrisville, are spending a few days in the capital. They are bride and groom, and are on their way home from New York. Mr. Davis is prosecuting attorney of Ritchie county.

Among the late comers from West Virginia are William Burt of Mannington; J. L. Trigallie, of Huntington; Worth Shemmaker, of Buckhannon; and W. J. Bailey, of Muddy. J. Bryon Nickerson, secretary to Congressman Neely, has been confined to his home this week with an attack of illness.

Three petitions from as many church organizations at Harrisville, strongly favoring a bone dry section in the food control bill and commending the House for its attitude on that particular question, were presented in the House today by Congressman Reed. The officers of the organization in question, who lead off with their signatures, are Miss Lena Piferpont, J. C. Cottrill, Mrs. P. J. Westfall, Dale Moats and the Rev. B. T. Treve.

Senator Sutherland has taken up several cases at the Pension Bureau to expedite them. They are the pending claims of Henry C. Williams of Leon; Harriet Brown of Terra Alta; and Sarah C. Hoover of Sutton.

Judge and Mrs. George W. Atkinson have returned to Charleston after a visit of several days here.

Former Governor Atkinson is in Washington for a few days en route to his home at Charleston from New

York, where he appeared as a character witness in behalf of certain West Virginia coal operators who are undergoing trial in that city charged with violating the anti-trust laws. Senator Howard Sutherland, who visited New York for the same purpose and Congressman Edward Cooper have returned. Another one of the prominent character witnesses summoned by the defendants in his celebrated case was Bishop Donohue of Wheeling.

R. C. Crisswell of Martinsburg and C. L. Hunter of Berkeley Springs, were today formally recommended by Congressman Bowers to receive commissions in the officer's reserve corps.

Mrs. Lucy Edgell of Clarksburg has been recommended to the Post Office Department by Congressman Reed for appointment as postmistress at Norwood, a flourishing industrial suburb of Clarksburg.

At the Pension Bureau today Senator Sutherland took up with the officials there the pending claims of Mrs. Olive Duckworth of Westport and Mrs. Cannanessa Buck of Parkersburg and urged immediate and favorable action upon the same. He also filed with the commissioner an application for an increase made by C. W. Odert of Belington.

Congressman Reed has recommended Gale Lambert, of Clarksburg, for a commission in the officer's reserve corps. He also presented in the House a petition from Branch 96, Glass Bottle Blowers Association of Clarksburg, forwarded by Clyde Waters, secretary, urging the passage of the food control bill, which has passed the house and is near passage in the Senate.

The Post Office Department has notified Congressman Reed that a new postoffice has been established in Harrison county to be known as Ammore and that William H. Sharps had been commissioned postmaster. The office known as Greenbrier has been christened Rorer, and John A. Mc-

Clure has had a commission issued to him. The office at Emoryville, Mineral county, has been ordered discontinued. Star route schedules have undergone changes. It is announced, between the following places: Snow Hill to Russellville; Elliott to Victor; Red Spring to Layland; Griffithsville to Bernie; Dry Creek to Jarrolds Valley; Clint to Alderson; Isagar to North Spring; and Rock Cave to Adrian.

As a claim, it is counted upon as a certainty that miners and farmers in West Virginia will be exempted. This information is gleaned from reliable officials close to the source of the experts who are now preparing list of the branches of industry vital to the war. Shipbuilders, munition workers and every branch of business that aids in maintaining the military forces will be ordered exempted. But even for men in these industries exemption is not going to be absolute. It is conditional upon the men remaining in the same enterprises. Every man must appear before the exemption boards.

Miss Isa Wilson, of Stewart Run, and Gilbert Straight spent Sunday at Will Snider's.

Ben McElroy, of Morgantown, spent Sunday at Will Snider's.

James Arnett was visiting at Jack Fisher's at Lowesville one day last week.

Berry John, of Morgantown, was the guest of Will Snider last Sunday.

Miss Opal Brookover of Morgantown, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Will Snider's.

W. M. Ralphsynder was a business caller at Morgantown last Monday.

Berry John of Morgantown, spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Winnie Snider.

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